



Centers for Oceans and Human Health: Contributions to an emerging discipline

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Abstract:

The oceans are the dominant feature of the planet and are fundamentally linked to human history and to human health. Concerns about the impact of the oceans on human health can be traced to ancient times. Jewish law prohibited the consumption of shellfish, probably reflecting the fact that filter-feeding bivalves can accumulate pathogens and toxins. The Portuguese explorer Pedro Fernandes de Queirós described symptoms associated with ciguatera fish poisoning after eating Caribbean sea bream in 1606, and several of British explorer James Cook's crew experienced similar symptoms after eating fish off the coast of Vanuatu in 1774 [1]. Roughly 1,200 people died from the consumption of fish and shellfish contaminated with methyl mercury in Minamata (Japan) during the 20th century; an even larger number were affected by chronic long-term neurotoxicological impacts [2]. A tsunami caused by an undersea earthquake on December 26, 2004 killed more than 225,000 people in eleven countries bordering the Indian Ocean; and more than 1,400 people died within a single day when the storm surge generated by Hurricane Katrina overwhelmed the New Orleans levee system on August 29, 2005 [3]. Looking ahead, the International Panel on Climate Change has projected a sea level rise of as much as 88 cm during the 21st century as a result of global warming [4], with major implications for the welfare and sustainability of coastal communities.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2586714>

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Researcher

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Food/Water Quality: Biotoxin/Algal Bloom

Food/Water Security: Fisheries, Other Marine Productivity

Geographic Feature: ☐

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal

Geographic Location: ☐

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact: ☐

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☐

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Resource Type: ☐

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale: ☐

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified